United Nations S/2010/401

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2010

Original: English

Note verbale dated 28 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council for the month of July 2010 and has the honour to submit herewith a letter dated 25 July 2010 addressed to You from H.E. Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning Iraq's compliance regarding disarmament issues (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Iraq also has the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 28 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to refer to my letter of 18 January 2010 to the President of the Security Council outlining the steps being taken by the Government of Iraq to comply with its disarmament and non-proliferation obligations. In presidential statement S/PRST/2010/5, the Security Council welcomed that letter and requested the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to evaluate the quality of Iraq's cooperation with the Agency. The Director General of IAEA commended Iraq's "excellent cooperation" in his response to that request (S/2010/190). Our letter of 18 January 2010 also stated that Iraq would inform the Security Council and IAEA of other steps demonstrating Iraq's commitment to the principles of disarmament and non-proliferation.

In the present letter, I should like to draw attention to additional steps taken by the Government of Iraq in that regard. As you are aware, in my letter dated 17 February 2010 addressed to the Director General of IAEA, I noted Iraq has been voluntarily applying the requirements of the protocol additional to the Safeguards Agreement concluded with IAEA. On 16 July 2010, Iraq officially submitted its notification to the Agency in accordance with the Additional Protocol, article 17. Furthermore, on 13 July 2010, the Government of Iraq decided to accede to the Hague Code of Conduct, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is taking the necessary administrative procedures in that regard. In addition to the foregoing, on 29 July 2010, Iraq submitted its first report to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the dismantling of the chemical weapons programme inherited from the previous regime. Having successfully completed these important steps, we feel that the time has come to lift the outstanding restrictions pertaining to disarmament imposed on Iraq by Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 687 (1991) and 707 (1991). Continued implementation of those resolutions deprives the Iraqi people and Iraq, as a responsible and active member of the international community, of the right to benefit from scientific and technological progress.

Accordingly, we trust that the Security Council will adopt, at the earliest opportunity, a resolution ordering the lifting of those restrictions, thereby affirming the Council's credibility and the transparency of its relations with Member States. There is nothing to prevent the Council from adopting such a resolution in view of the significant strides that Iraq has made in disarmament and non-proliferation.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter to the members of the Security Council as soon as possible.

(*Signed*) Hoshyar **Zebari**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Iraq